Investment made in exploration of oil and gas

†3193. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exploration of crude oil and natural gas reserves is being undertaken since decades in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount spent by Government on exploration activities during the nineties; and

(c) the total reserves of oil and natural gas which have been found in the country by the end of this decade?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No expenditure is incurred by Government on exploration activities. However, the National Oil Companies (NOCs), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), have together spent about Rs. 13,995 crores on exploration activities from 1990-91 to 1999-2000. Further, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has also spent about Rs. 34 crores during this period on pre-exploratory surveys, so as to open up hither-to unexplored areas.

(c) The total ulitmate oil and natural gas reserves established by the NOCs as also by private/joint venture companies as on 1.4.2001 approximately are 1447 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and 1100 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM), respectively.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.